

VZCZCXYZ0484
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHCL #0007 0131705
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 131705Z JAN 10
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8592
RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE
RUEHAB/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 0001
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0207
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0006
RUEHKE/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0001
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0017
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS CASABLANCA 000007

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR IO/PSC AND NEA/MAG

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [CG](#) [IV](#) [WI](#) [MO](#)

SUBJECT: MOROCCO: EFFECTIVENESS OF UN EFFORTS TO COMBAT
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE IN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

REF: A. 09 STATE 130760

[1](#)B. 07 RABAT 1238

[1](#)1. (U) This cable responds to Ref A request for information on UN efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) involving UN peacekeeping mission personnel in the Western Sahara and Moroccan peacekeepers in Cote d'Ivoire the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This message was cleared with Embassy Rabat and represents coordinated Mission views.

[1](#)2. (SBU) According to the Government of Morocco (GOM), TIP and SEA are not a problem within the United Nations Mission on the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Redouan Houssaini, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) UN Division Chief, submitted a response in writing to Mission inquiries stating the MFA is not aware of any SEA or TIP issues pertaining to MINURSO.

[1](#)3. (SBU) MINURSO Public Affairs Officer Carmen Johns told poloff that there were no cases of SEA or TIP misconduct in 2009. MINURSO is currently in the process of hiring a new Conduct and Discipline Officer who will be responsible for briefing and training all new arrivals on SEA, TIP, and other conduct issues. Johns reported that MINURSO conducts regular refresher training throughout the year.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Houssaini also reported there were no incidents of SEA or TIP among the 1,561 members of the Moroccan Armed Forces serving at the UN Peacekeeping Operations in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

[1](#)5. (U) In July 2007, Moroccan peacekeepers in Cote d'Ivoire were accused of sexual abuse involving underage girls. The GOM fully supported UN efforts to investigate the accusations. An inquiry team, consisting of UN investigators and Moroccan army officers, was unable to unearth any conclusive evidence of abuse. No formal charges were filed (Ref B). There have been no allegations regarding Moroccan peacekeepers since 2007.

[1](#)6. (SBU) Mission is unaware of any other official reports in 2009 of SEA or TIP incidents involving MINURSO personnel or Moroccan peacekeepers in Cote d'Ivoire. The Embassy's Human Rights officer contacted local NGOs in Laayoune, Western Sahara which reported they do not believe there are SEA or TIP problems connected to MINURSO.